

Rothman Helps Obtain Hundreds of Millions For New Jersey Post-September 11th Transportation and Security

December 21, 2001

Rothman Helps Obtain Hundreds of Millions For New Jersey Post-September 11th Transportation and Security Needs, Plus Tax Relief For Victims and Survivors Funds to Bolster PATH and Ferry Service, Improve Law Enforcement Communications System

Washington, DC -- Following appeals from Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and other members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation, Congress yesterday approved a far-reaching measure that will provide hundreds of millions of dollars for New Jersey to expand and improve its PATH and ferry service, repair and modernize law enforcement communications tools, and secure its ports in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. A separate measure to provide tax relief to the survivors of September 11 victims, which Rothman has advocated in recent weeks, also passed the House.

"These vital resources will deliver a big boost to our region's rebuilding process in the aftermath of one of the most horrific moments in our nation's history," Rothman said. "Restored and expanded PATH and ferry service allow New Jersey residents to commute to their jobs in New York City with greater ease, and at the same time help the region recover economically. Additionally, by bolstering New Jersey law enforcement communications tools we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that we are better prepared for any future emergency."

Under the measure, \$100 million will go to expand ferry service for commuters between New Jersey and Manhattan, a separate \$100 million will be used to fund improvements to the PATH Transit system, and an additional \$100 million will help Amtrak enhance safety and security of its tunnels under the Hudson and East Rivers.

\$30 million will go toward the replacement of the New Jersey State Police Radio System tower that was lost in the September 11 attacks. An additional \$10.7 million will allow the Jersey City Police Department to upgrade its communications system. Further security measures include \$93.3 million to tighten security at all U.S. seaports, including those between Manhattan and New York and those along the Delaware River.

In a separate move, the House adopted a measure Rothman had been calling for to provide broad tax relief to the survivors of those killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks. The measure, which Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) authored, waives income taxes for this year and last year, provides a refund on any income taxes already paid during that period, and repeals a significant portion of the estate tax for surviving family members of September 11 victims. Additionally, the measure would refund two years worth of payroll taxes to all families of those killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, make life insurance payments and disability benefits tax exempt, and eliminate income tax on charitable gifts and contributions to the victims and survivors.

"I am pleased that Congress has displayed the compassion and spirit of the American people by assisting the families of those who were killed on September 11," Rothman said. "All of these families lost a major, if not their only, source of income when their loved ones were killed, yet they still have bills and mortgages to pay just like the rest of us. This tax relief will help relieve some of their financial burden."

The transportation and security funds are included in the Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002, one of 13 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. President Bush is expected to sign the measure into law in the coming days.

###

[Go back](#)

